transport activity, verification of the details including receipt of product at destination are monitored. Trucks are accepted for loading only after verification of documentation covering previous trips.

Sector-wise Export Performance

*218. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the revealing indicators of sector-wise export performance analysis of major sectors of Indian exports and action contemplated to remove the constraints of declining performance of these sectors;

(b) whether VEPZ suggested for evolving a sectoral export policy; and

(c) if so, the response of Government to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per the provisional data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, sector-wise export performance of major sectors of Indian exports for the year 1999-2000 are as under:

Sectors	April-March 98-99 ($ mn)	April-March 99-2000 ($ mn)	Growth %
Plantation	949.07	722.28	−23.90
Agriculture & allied items	3997.81	3576.90	−10.53
Marine products	1038.39	1180.11	13.65
Ores & Minerals	893.43	906.69	1.48
Leather & Manufactures	1660.72	1538.39	−7.37
Gems & Jewellery	5929.35	7636.04	28.78
Chemicals & related product	4164.81	4734.63	13.68
Engineering Goods	3804.83	4372.55	14.92
Electronic Hardware	502.75	566.40	12.66
Textiles	8322.77	9253.36	11.18
Handicrafts	633.11	670.29	5.87

Export Promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to

improve export performance through decentralization and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy, multilateral & bilateral initiatives and identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

(b) and (c) Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone (VEPZ) is a multi-product Zone and no specific sectoral policy is being followed. Establishment of units in various product groups depends on the export market and the response of the entrepreneurs. EPZ units broadly fall under the product groups of electronics, engineering items, gem and jewellery, textiles and garments, chemicals and allied products, plastics and rubber products.

Survey to assess underground Natural Gas and Oil in the Country

*†*219. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to assess the quantum of underground natural gas and oil in the country;

(b) if so, when and the details of outcome thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that foreign agencies have also been entrusted with the work of natural gas and oil exploration in the country;

(d) if so, the names of such agencies alongwith the details of the conditions of the agreements entered into with them; and

(e) the details of such industries which have been set up or to be set up for proper use of natural gas available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Exploration of hydrocarbons is an on-going process, consisting of surveys, seismic data acquisition, processing, interpretation, prospect identification and drilling. India's reserves (balance) of Oil plus Oil Equivalent Gas

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.